AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 12 as follows.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1 - 11 (cancelled)

12. (currently amended) A method of producing a fiber reinforced composite by pultrusion having variable strength characteristics along its length, said method comprising the steps of:

drawing through a pultrusion die a series of reinforcing fibers to form a pultruded fiber composite product

incorporating by at least one of splicing, interlacing and otherwise distributing in the reinforcing fibers prior to the drawing step additional fibers in order to vary the strength characteristics of the final product substantially without altering the cross-sectional area thereof, a plastics matrix material being applied around the fibers and allowed to solidify to form the finished composite.

13. (previously presented) A method according to claim 12 in which the additional fibers have a characteristic different from that of the said reinforcing fibers.

14. (previously presented) A method according to claim 13 in which the said characteristic is selected from the group fiber tenacity and fiber modulus.

15. (previously presented) A method according to claim 12 in which the additional fibers are spliced between discrete lengths of the reinforcing fibers.

16. (previously presented) A method according to claim 12 in which the additional fibers are interlaced amongst continuous said reinforcing fibers.

17. (previously presented) A method according to claim 12 in which the plastics matrix material is applied to the additional fibers during the drawing step.

18. (previously presented) A method according to claim 12 in which the additional fibers are pre-impregnated with a plastics matrix material before said drawing step.

19. (previously presented) A method according to claim 12 in which the reinforcing fibers are in the form of a woven web.

20. (previously presented) A method according to claim 12 in which the reinforcing fibers are in the form of a non-woven web.

21. (previously presented) A composite structural member produced according to the method of claim 12.

22. (previously presented) A composite structural member according to claim 21 comprising an aircraft skin stringer.

23. (previously presented) An aircraft airfoil incorporating a composite structural member according to claim 21.

24. (previously presented) An aircraft containing a composite produced according to the method of claims 12.